

HOUSE RESOLUTION 163

By Camper

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Reverend Dr. Rosalyn Regina Nichols on being named one of the 12 Most Outstanding Women in Ministry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Reverend Dr. Rosalyn Regina Nichols, who has been named one of the 12 Most Outstanding Women in Ministry by the Memphis Inter-Denominational (MID) Fellowship, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the MID Fellowship recognizes the importance of honoring those women who have demonstrated excellence in their respective fields; the women recognized are judged on the basis of being a Woman of Faith, a Woman of Prayer, a Woman of Good Works, a Woman of Dedication, and a Woman of Leadership with the Courage of Esther; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the MID Fellowship requested nominations of Memphis and Shelby County women who are graduates of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and, subsequently, selected twelve outstanding women; and

WHEREAS, an alumna of LeMoyne-Owen College, Dr. Rosalyn Nichols graduated summa cum laude from the Memphis Theological Seminary and received her Doctor of Ministry degree from Virginia Union University, an HBCU in Richmond, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nichols was the first in her family to answer the call to pastoral ministry and is among only a handful of African-American women in her region to organize a new church from inception to sustainability, namely Freedom's Chapel Christian Church, which began at her

father's dining room table in 2001 with nine members and has since grown into a robust congregation housed in a 15,000 square-foot facility; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded by those in the religious community, Dr. Rosalyn Nichols was the first ordained clergy woman to serve as visiting professor at Gweru Baptist Theological Seminary in Gweru, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and was a guest presenter at the first Conference on Sexuality and Covenant hosted by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Mercer University; in 2012, she joined the staff at Memphis Theological Seminary as Director of Advancement for Special Programs; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nichols served on the Board of Directors for Omni Prep Academy, was an organizing member of United Against Violence 901, and currently serves as an executive team member of Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Memphis Leadership, she has devoted her time and talents to serving as a member of the NAACP and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Beta Epsilon Omega Chapter, and her writings have been featured in numerous articles and books; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, following the domestic-violence-related death of a childhood friend, Dr. Nichols organized A More Excellent Way, Inc., a nonprofit with a mission to help individuals from all walks of life enter into, engage in, and maintain spiritually healthy relationships toward the elimination of relationship violence; she has remained a staunch advocate of victims of domestic violence for more than two decades; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rosalyn Nichols is a dynamic and passionate community advocate, event organizer, preacher, teacher, and pastor who believes that freedom in Christ gives one the liberty to live and the responsibility to serve; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that Dr. Nichols be recognized at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we congratulate

Reverend Dr. Rosalyn Regina Nichols on being honored by the Memphis Inter-Denominational Fellowship, Inc., as one of the 12 Most Outstanding Women in Ministry of 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.